

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3417

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3055

EXDIS

FOR DEP SEC ARMITAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, CVIS, PFOR, RO

SUBJECT: RECONCILIATION OF FIGURES FOR EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

REF: (A) STATE 158886 (B) BUCHAREST 3007

1. I RECOGNIZE IMPORTANCE OF RECONCILIATION OF DISPARATE FIGURES CONTAINED REFTELS, BUT REGRETFULLY I DO NOT THINK THIS IS POSSIBLE WITH MUCH GREATER SUCCESS THAN WE HAVE HAD HERETOFORE. AS YOU ARE PAINFULLY AWARE, FROM THE OUTSET OF THIS EFFORT WE HAVE HAD TO CONTEND WITH A CONTINUING PROBLEM OF DIFFERING STATISTICS RECEIVED FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES -- ALL OFFICIAL WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RABBI ROSEN WHOSE STATUS BORDERS ON THE OFFICIAL AND WHOSE BONA FIDES I HAVE NO REASON TO DATE TO DISTRUST.

2. CLEARLY GOR IS ANXIOUS TO PRODUCE SETS OF FIGURES WHICH PUT ITS PERFORMANCE IN THE BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT. IT IS EQUALLY OBVIOUS THAT THE GOI HAS AN INTEREST IN KEEPING THE HEAT ON THE ROMANIANS AND THEREFORE WILL GENERALLY TEND TO USE MORE CONSERVATIVE STATISTICS.

3. IT SEEMS TO ME THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT TO STRESS IN ART HARTMAN'S TESTIMONY IS THAT OUR STATISTICS FROM ALL SOURCES INDICATE A SHARP TREND UPWARD IN BOTH APPROVALS

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AND EMIGRATION FROM LOWS OF EARLY THIS YEAR. I WOULD NOT AVOID THE FACT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN FIGURES

(ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS TO ME ON THE WHOLE THEY ARE MINIMAL).
I WOULD STATE IN PART THIS IS THE RESULT OF DIFFERENT
METHODS OF BOOKKEEPING. FOR EXAMPLE, AN EMIGRANT DEPARTING
ROMANIA WITH AN ISRAELI VISA IN HIS PASSPORT IS COUNTED BY
THE GOR AS HAVING EMIGRATED TO ISRAEL. AS WE KNOW, SOME
DON'T MAKE IT, DIVERTING TO WESTERN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE.
OBVIOUSLY, THE GOI DOES NOT COUNT THESE PEOPLE AS HAVING
REACHED ISRAEL. SIMILARLY, WE KNOW THERE HAS BEEN
SOME STATISTICAL CONFUSION (PARA 5 BUCHAREST 2915) IN GOR
ACCOUNTING. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THIS HAS BEEN COMPLETELY
RECTIFIED.

4. RE ALLON'S FIGURE (PARA 3, REF A), IN GENERAL I THINK
IT PROBABLY A FAIR ASSUMPTION THAT AMBASSADORS ARE MORE
ACCURATE THAN THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS IN RECORDING MATTERS
OF THIS SORT. MY GUESS IS THAT ALLON MAY HAVE INTENDED
TO SAY 299 RATHER THAN 199 (4 OFF FROM HIS AMBASSADOR'S
FIGURE).

5. NO SURPRISINGLY, BOGDAN'S FIGURES (PARA 4 REF A) ARE
FOR THE MOST PART HIGHER THAN THOSE WE HAVE RECEIVED HERE.
BUT AGAIN I WOULD STRESS THE DIFFERENCE IS MINIMAL. FOR
THE PURPOSES OF ART'S TESTIMONY IT DOESN'T SEEM TO ME TO
MERIT SUFFICIENT CAUSE FOR CONCERN BEYOND REGISTERING THE
PLAIN FACT THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES AND WE ARE CONTINUING
OUR EFFORTS TO TRY TO RECONCILE THEM WITH INFORMATION FROM
OTHER SOURCES. IN EITHER EVENT THE BOGDAN AND COHEN FIGURES
FOR JUNE ARE ABOVE WHAT RABBI MILLER HAD HOPED TO SEE
FOR THAT MONTH.

6. I FULLY REALIZE THIS RESPONSE IS NOT ALL YOU WOULD HAVE
LIKED, BUT I FRANKLY KNOW OF NO PRACTICAL WAY OF RECONCILING
THE UNRECONCILABLE. I TRUST, HOWEVER, THAT THE
EXPLANATIONS I HAVE OFFERED WILL HELP EASE YOUR
DIFFICULTIES.
BARNES

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